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Tasks in the order I received them:

Task One: Semiotic Analysis (Ryan task) = 539 words

Task Two: Manifesto (Julia Task) = 534 words

Task Three. (Jon Task) = 483 words

Task 1:

In the current political zeitgeist of racism, sexism and much more, our understanding of images over the centuries have changed dramatically and the messages driven behind work have also altered substantially. It seems that almost every image made in the post-modern era of art is extremely politically charged and clearly sits on the left or right side of politics. However while political art seems to be in its prime in the current day, art has always been political from its first day of conception.

From our first day on earth, we are taught to read signs and symbols as well as the relationship between language and its meanings. The world is “A galaxy of signifiers” (Barthes, 1997) as described by Barthes, everything in life has a meaning. Whether these meanings take on a denoted or connoted stance also seems to be a huge part of our life.”Culture does not make people. People make culture” (Adiche, 2015, p.46). As humans we have used words and signs to hold much more meaning than their original purpose. This is most evident in derogatory words used to describe minorities. While it is true that a derogatory word is just a word, we also understand the use of these words in the past and how they have affected humanity.



In 2016, Beyoncé released her single 'Formation' with a music video. As seen above the music video was extremely politically charged and focused on the alienation and racism that black Americans faced while living in a racist America. The themes and ideology in the video where

similar to the political motivation found in Afrosurrealism. In the image we can clearly see Beyoncé crouching on top of a police car in the middle of a flooded street. Her dress is that of the style of New Orleans clothing worn and popularised by black women. The flood behind her and her “dress codes” (Barthes, 1990) have clear connotations and connections with Hurricane Katrina. The aftermath of Katrina hit the black community the worst due to the lack of funding and aid that the government gave to the black community after the disaster. This led to high unemployment rates and homelessness in the black community and the infamous statement made by Kanye West on American television “George Bush doesn’t care about black people.” (2005). The lack of compassion that the American government had for the black community solidified that racism within the American society and most of western society was still rife. The half submerged police car is in clear reference to the Black Lives Matter movement and police brutality aimed at young black men and women. Beyoncé is placed above the police car possibly signifying that she believes she is above the police not only morally but possibly above the law as well. This proud and defying stance that she takes is clearly aimed to empower and enrich the young black youth that are feeling the suffocation and oppression of racist America.

The highly charged and controversial music video had clear aims of calling out the injustices faced by the black community and other minorities. It is a great example of the style of political artwork created in the modern era.

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Task 2:

- **Social media is a great tool for connection, but can also be a catalyst for isolation.**
- **EAT THE RICH.**
- **Redistribute your wealth for a better world.**
- **Use your voice!**
- **Elitism within art is toxic and shouldn't discourage you from your true calling.**
- **Take time to stop and think about your choices in the present that may define your future.**
- **Surround yourself with people who ground you.**
- **In an age of "Fake news" choose to source your information independently.**

Social media is a great tool for connection, but can also be a catalyst for isolation.



In the age of social media and new technology, our grips with reality are slowly loosening and so are our personal connections with people.

In this painting created by Dan Witz, the loneliness and isolation of social media are demonstrated through the vignette background. The light source emitting from the phone not only is the key light source of the image but could also be a metaphor for the subjects phone being perceived as the most valuable thing in the image. The vacant expression on the subjects face shows the

“zombie” like persona that the subject has become due to their obsession with their phone. The subjects pale face is akin to that of an addicts face shown not only in her paleness but also the messy hair and poor posture.”Social media can directly impact physical health.” (Direenzo, 2016)

Social media has allowed us to create new relationships never imagined before but has also allowed us to become empty and obsessive vessels.

In an age of “Fake news”choose to source your information independently.

Due to the social media prevalence in our society, it seems that most people obtain and share



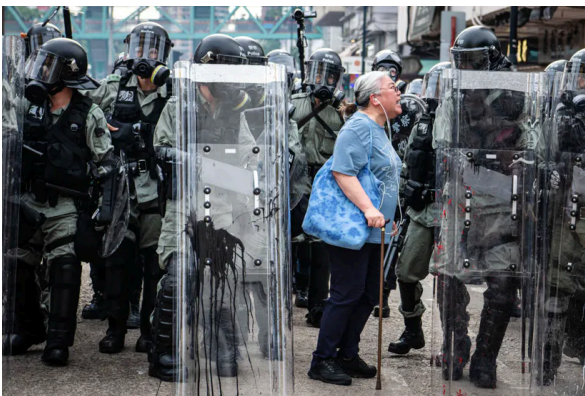
news through websites such as Facebook and Twitter. While social media is a great new way of keeping up with the political zeitgeist, it is now easier than ever to share and create “Fake news.” (Carson, 2018) This statement coined by right wing politics is true in both wings of politics and is extremely damaging to both sides of the political coin.

This image of Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg was taken in his trial for the spread of “Fake News” on Facebook that breached lawful guidelines of the spread of news on his platform. These claims (that he denies) were infamous and have changed the way that we consume news as patrons on social media platforms. The wide angle of the image portrays Zuckerberg’s body language as intimidated. The stretched image almost represents him as inhuman which could be done purposely in order for the spectator to lack any emotional sympathy for him.

Use your voice!

It seems that while the political stand point was “I don’t take part in politics”, a common phrase used in the late 90’s and early 00’s. Today’s political climate doesn’t allow you to do this. Politics have become embedded in every aspect of our daily lives from the coffee cups we drink in the morning to the advertisements we pass on our way to work.

This image taken in the midst of the Hong Kong riots proves that even the elders in our society cannot be detached from politics. The image also demonstrates that there is no age limit to



empowerment and standing up for what you believe in. The juxtaposition between the walking stick, something that connotes weakness or vulnerability and the woman’s upright fearless stance against multiple protected soldiers is aspirational.

In an age defined by our choices and actions our grip on politics should be tighter than ever, passivity is no longer the option. “Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.” (King Jr, 2018)

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Task 3



After the shocking news that Princess Diana and the Prince of Wales had announced their split in 1992 most of the world accepted that the People's Princess was done with her public appearances and was to live a much more private life out of the way of the sniping British press. We were wrong.

In 1994 Princess Diana wore this iconic Christina Stambolian dress only two hours after a documentary about the Prince of Wales was released detailing his affair with Camilla Parker Bowles. This dress has famously been recognised as “the first ever revenge dress” (Spencer, 2019) and became an iconic symbol not only within the fashion industry but also with female

empowerment. The dress showed women the power they held simply in the clothes that they wore. The ‘revenge dress’ became a trend in the fashion industry sparking many recreations in celebrity

culture with celebrities taking inspiration such as Jennifer Aniston as well as impacting the general public. The confidence that radiated from the Princess encouraged women to reclaim their sexuality and use it to their advantage rather than gave it objectified by others. "Hell hath no fury like a woman scorned" (Congreve, 2016, Act III, Scene II)

Much like the challenges Meghan Markle is currently facing with the British press, Diana also faced relentless attacks that the press had against her. Since their split in 1992 she was almost fed to the wolves and nitpicked for everything that she did or said. "Sneered at by the media."(Barnett, 2017) This was one of the first times since their divorce that she came into the public eye knowing of the cameras and wearing and acting how she pleased. This act of defiance showed the press and the world of her strong will.

The dress itself broke almost broke every royal protocol with its plunging neckline showcasing Diana's décolletage paired with matching Cartier necklace and earrings. As well as a shorter style dress that rose above the knee and hugged her figure flatteringly. The dress showed the public and the Prince of Wales that he had made a mistake in his adultery with Bowles. The controversial breaking of royal protocol showed her clear departure from the royal family and her contemporary ideology on how a princess should act in the modern era. Timing seemed to be pivotal for the impact of this dress. It's almost certain that while the dress is a stunning piece of art, its impact and the nickname 'revenge dress' would not have been awarded if it were worn on another occasion. Its specific ties to the Prince of Wales' confession of his unfaithfulness to Diana on the same day she wore it makes this dress so impactful to its zeitgeist and present day. It taught women to own their sexiness in a time that many would find extremely difficult to display any form of self confidence.

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